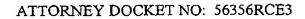
#50/f KD 6-15-03





IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

: TERASHIMA et al.

Serial No

: 08/964,257

Confirm. No

Filed

: November 4, 1997

For

: APPARATUS EQUIPPED...

Art Unit

: 2622

Examiner Dated

: M. Nguyen : June 20, 2003

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Match and Return

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 38 as follows:

5

38. (Amended) A multiple function apparatus, comprising:

a first transporting guide including a straight guide part and a deflecting guide part, said straight guide part being formed so as to transport a first sheet straight and is open at one end, and said deflecting guide part being connected to said straight guide part at a side opposite said one end so as to transport a first sheet in a direction different from a direction of transport effected by said straight guide part;

a first apparatus provided at said deflecting guide part, and performing processing for